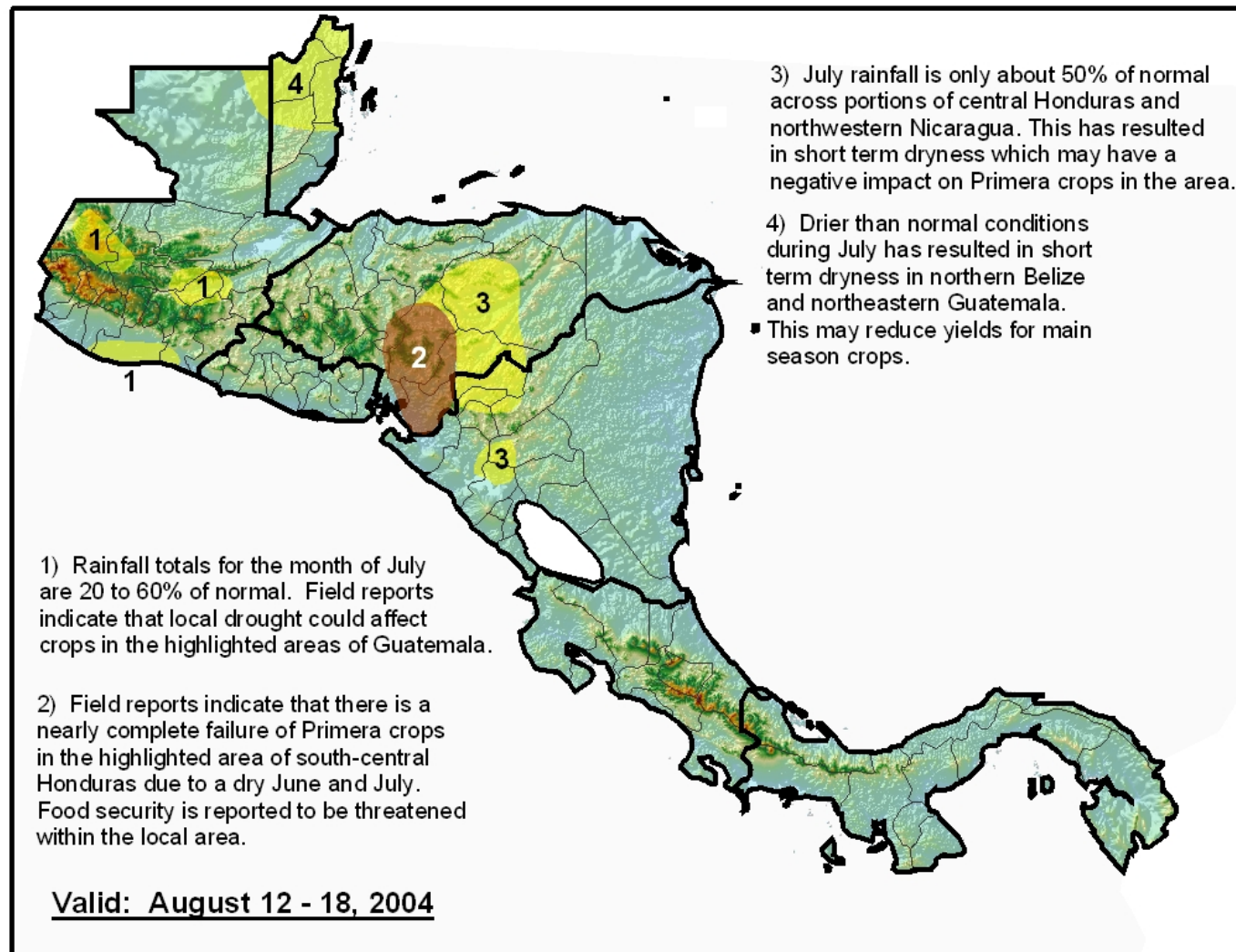


The MFEWS

Central America Weather Hazards Assessment

for

August 12 - 18, 2004



Hazards Assessment Text Explanation:

1. Rainfall has been lighter than normal across portions of southern Guatemala for the month of July, with rainfall totals of 20 to 60% of normal. Rainfall so far for the month of August has also been light and scattered. Field reports indicate that the dryness is stressing corn and other crops in the area. Showers during the period may provide some dryness relief for immature crops and increase moisture for second season crop plantings, however yield reductions are possible for mature first season crops.
2. Field reports indicate nearly complete failure of Primera crops in south-central portions of Honduras due to dry conditions during June and July. Food security in the local area may be threatened.
3. Rainfall during the month of July has only been about half of normal, with only scattered showers observed so far during the month of August. This has resulted in moisture deficits and possible crop stress across portions of southern Honduras and northwestern Nicaragua. Rainfall during the period will be scattered. Therefore, little in the way of dryness relief is expected.
4. Drier than normal conditions have been observed over northern portions of Belize and the northeastern corner of Guatemala during June and July. This may have a negative effect on main season crops in the local area. Conditions are expected to remain mostly dry during the period. Therefore, little relief is expected.

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